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CLASSIFICATION

INFORMATION REPORT
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DATE DISTR. 16 September 1952

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NO. OF ENCLS.
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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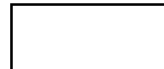
1. The Voice of America i acquiring greater influence and more listeners in Bulgaria. The Voice of America has established itself as the symbol of hope and freedom and is the Bulgarian language broadcast most listened to by the Bulgarian people. The consistent high quality, program variety, and longer broadcasting time periods have contributed to its recent increased popularity.
2. The people listen to "Pravdolyub," "Strelets," and "Americus" with great interest. Often, however, the comments on these programs are stereotyped and concern events and problems that are not timely and vital. In Bulgaria one hears the people comments "We know this. We can see it and we can feel it. Tell us something new. Tell us when war will start. Give us courage, not talk."
3. The Bulgarian people want and receive with great satisfaction news of the appropriations for war needs, the details of world-encircling bomber flights, the building of airfields around the Iron Curtain, and similar news. More time could be devoted to such topics.
4. The words of President Truman in the spring of 1951: "America is ready to help actively those people who are fighting for freedom" gave an impulse to many resistance groups existing in the country. These words, however, were not repeated and emphasized in respect to their importance. Sentences such as the following meet with an enthusiastic reception: "When Bulgaria joins the family of free nations..."; "Bulgaria will again be free..."; and "Freedom soon will rise above our suffering homeland..." Slogans such as these should be repeated more often. The words with which the Voice of America opened its broadcasts in 1945 would again have meaning today: "You are listening to the Voice of America, the voice of a united people. America is fighting for the freedom and independence of all people."

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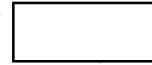
5. A series of lectures on the following subjects would be of interest and would counter Communist propaganda that collective farming is the most rational method of farming:
 - a. Innovations in crop selection;
 - b. New technical devices;
 - c. Method of operating an average American truck or dairy farm;
 - d. Crop yields of the average American farm;
 - e. Reforestation;
 - f. Flood control; and
 - g. Use of fertilizers and insecticides.
6. The comparisons of living standards are given too academically. It has not once been mentioned that bread costs five times more in Bulgaria than in America, that it has to be bought with a coupon in Bulgaria, and that Bulgarian bread is of much poorer quality than American bread.
7. A certain amount of information concerning motion pictures, art, music, and cultural life in general, would also find interested listeners in Bulgaria since the Bulgarians are completely out of touch with the West.
8. Non-Bulgarian names in the "black lists" have little effect since they are either unknown or are too local in character to have any effect on the listener.
9. Radio London has a large audience in Bulgaria. Of particular interest are the quotations from the press with commentaries on various national and international events. The logic of its commentaries impresses the intellect and is convincing, but is often presented in a style which is difficult for the average listener to grasp. The broadcasts which feature national, religious, and other holidays are well received.
10. Broadcasts by Vlada Karastoyanova have a negative effect. Although known in public life and listened to regularly, she does not enjoy the full confidence of her audience.
11. All free stations should report the number of Bulgarians leaving the country. These figures could be given by the week, month, or year. In case of large groups, special broadcasts announcing the number of groups and their numerical strength would be of interest. Throughout Bulgaria the belief is widespread that any attempt to cross the border leads to imprisonment or death, but rarely to freedom. This belief is encouraged by the Communist propaganda machine. Pictures are shown of Border Guards in a watchful position, with dogs at their sides. Poems and short stories are dedicated to the Border Guards, many of them describing deeds of heroism in the capture of illegal residents and escapees. On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Border Guards, General Panov, Commander, cited more than ten reports of captured escapees and illegal residents. At this ceremony more than a hundred guards, officers, and villagers from the border area were rewarded for their faithful service. Announcement of the capture of persons attempting to leave or enter the country are given immediate and headline treatment in the press. Rumors are spread of large mine fields, long barbed wire fences, and nets of ambushes and traps. This whole campaign is organized and mounted as "the first line of border defense and security."
12. To counteract such Communist propaganda, the free radios should announce border crossers. A series of interviews with some of them would be extremely valuable. In addition to allaying the fears that the border is impregnable and escape is folly, the interviews could give some practical advice gained through the experience of the escapees. The following points should be included:

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- a. Number of persons best suited for a group planning a crossing;
- b. Necessary equipment and food;
- c. Method of movement;
- d. Safety and security measures;
- e. Choice of route; and
- f. Known dangerous areas.

Broadcasts in the above-mentioned vein would not only be of value to those planning to escape, but would also encourage escape.

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